

Study Hints for Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

Luke 2:25-38

Sunday, December 29, 2013

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be the answers to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. List five ways that Luke described the type of person Simeon was.

Simeon was righteous, devout, looked forward to the coming of the Messiah, the Holy Spirit rested on him, and he followed the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

2. Can you think of any others in the Bible (Old and New Testaments) who had some or all of the five qualities that Simeon demonstrated?

The prophet Daniel obeyed God in everything no matter what the consequences and at the risk of his own life. He expected the Messiah to come and the Holy Spirit inspired him to write scripture about the coming of Christ so people would recognize Jesus when He came.

The apostle Paul wrote about how to have a way of life through faith in Jesus Christ that had all the qualities of Simeon, and he said that he tried to be an example that others could imitate.

3. Can you think of anyone you have known (or have heard about other than those in the Bible) who had some or all of the five qualities that Simeon demonstrated?

Thankfully, I can think of several; however, the two that come to mind that I have known and that others have known too are Francis and Edith Schaeffer, who I knew well enough to write books about.

4. Why do you think all of these people demonstrated these qualities?

The truth of God in the Bible and the grace of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit led them to saving faith in Jesus Christ, and Jesus took up His life within them as their Lord and Savior. They chose to follow Jesus Christ no matter what the personal cost and taught others to do the same by word and example.

5. What did Anna do that prepared her to speak about the baby Jesus?

She worshiped God in the house of God, and she fasted and prayed with total commitment to God and His service, so the Holy Spirit could lead her and speak God's message through her.

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